

**West African College of Nursing (WACN)**  
**10th Biennial General/29th Council Meeting and 19th**  
**Scientific Session Held at Cotonou, Benin Republic**  
**21st – 27th March, 2009**

**COMMUNIQUE**

1. The 29th Council, 10th Biennial General Meeting (BGM) and 19th Scientific Session of the West African College of Nursing (WACN) took place at the Conference Hall, Palais de Congres, and Cotonou, Benin Republic from March 21st – 27th 2009.
2. The Official Opening Ceremony was performed by Mr. Kogui N'douro, Honourable Minister of Defence on behalf of His Excellency Dr. Boni Yayi, the President of the Republic of Benin on Tuesday 24th March 2009.
3. Distinguished Guests present at the opening ceremony include Mr. Alhassane Seidou, Minister of Decentralization, who represented the Minister of Health of Benin, Mr. Francois Abiola, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and Mr. E. J. J. Kablan, International Officer (Nursing) of the West African Health Organization (WAHO).
4. The Keynote Address was delivered by Professor Nazaire Padonou (Head of Visceral Surgery CNHU-HKM de Cotonou) on the theme, Health Information System as a Tool for Decision Making Implication for Nursing and Midwifery Practice.
5. The President of the West African College of Nursing, Mrs. Victoria Comfort Abbeyquaye read her Presidential Address.
6. Goodwill Messages were received from the following:
  - (i) First President of the West African College of Nursing (WACN) Mrs. O.A. Adewole
  - (ii) Representative from Sierra Leone for the First Lady Mrs. Sia Koroma who is also a Fellow of the College.
  - (iii) The West African Health Organization (WAHO) Representative.
7. Two Hundred and Seven (207) Nurses were awarded Fellowship into the five (5) Constituent Faculties of the College from Benin Republic, The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone.
8. The following Officers were elected as New Executive Members of the WACN for the Year 2009 – 2011:
  - (i) Mrs. Dedeh Helen Flomo-Jones - President, Liberia.

- (ii) Mrs. Francesca Ama Vandy - 1st Vice President, Sierra Leone
- (iii) Mr. Pascal Cesar Binazon - 2nd Vice President, Benin
- (iv) Mr. Philip Ndatsu - Secretary General, Nigeria
- (v) Mr. Lamin Suwareh - Hon. Treasurer, The Gambia

9. At the Scientific Session held on Tuesday and Wednesday (23rd and 24th March 2009) three (3) papers were presented on the following topics:

**1. Health Information Systems as a Tool for Decision Making:**

- (i) Implication for Nursing and Midwifery Practice by **Prof. Nazaire Padonou.**
- (ii) Quality Education for Quality Health Care: A Challenge for the Harmonization of the Training Curriculum by **Madam Honoria Akogbeto.**
- (iii) Documentation in Nursing Implication for Nursing Practice by **Mr. Djodjo Kouton Z. Cosme.**

1. Other Presentations delivered were as follows:-

- ICM – Strategies for Achieving MDG’s 3,4,5, and 6 by Dr. Jemima Dennis Antwi
- SIGMA THETA TAU and Lamda Tau Honour Society by Dr. Mary Opare.

10. The 10th BGM and 19th Scientific Session ended on Friday 27th March 2009 with a Banquet and Installation of the 15th President of the College, Mrs. Dedeh Helen Flomo-Jones of Liberia.

11. The West African College of Nursing expressed gratitude to the government and peoples of the Republic of Benin for the warm reception accorded to the delegates during their stay in Benin.

12. The College decided to hold its 11th BGM and 20th Scientific Session in March 2011 in The Gambia.

(Signed)

**Mrs. Victoria C. Abbeyquaye, FWACN  
President, WACN**

(Signed)

**Mrs. Fatoumata J. Daffeh, FWACN  
Secretary, General, WACN**

**Dated: 27th March, 2009.**